

LISTING OF CLAIMS

- Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A device for producing glass gobs, comprising:
- a membrane body including a gas outlet surface and an opposite surface, wherein the membrane body includes a porous material for permitting passage of compressed gas through pores of the membrane body to levitate the glass gobs above the gas outlet surface of the membrane body;
- at least one gas channel, formed in the membrane body and larger in cross section than the pores therein and configured to introduce ~~for introduction of~~ compressed gas into the membrane body and to pass ~~passage of~~ the compressed gas across the membrane body;
- the at least one gas channel is embedded in the porous material of the membrane body and is positioned at a distance from the outlet surface of the membrane body such that the compressed gas introduced through the at least one gas channel may pass through the membrane body and out the outlet surface to levitate the glass gobs above the gas outlet surface of the membrane body.
- Claim 2 (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the at least one gas channel is either parallel or at an acute angle to the outlet surface passing through the membrane body.
- Claim 3 (Original) The device of claim 1, further comprising an outlet channel in the membrane body passing through the membrane body and exiting a surface of the membrane body and having a cross-section larger than that of the pores of the membrane body for defining an outlet path for the compressed gas in the membrane body.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented) A device for producing glass gobs, comprising:

- a membrane body including a gas outlet surface and an opposite surface, wherein the membrane body includes a porous material for permitting passage of compressed gas through pores of the membrane body;
- at least one channel, formed in the membrane body and larger in cross section than the pores therein for introduction of compressed gas into the membrane body and passage of the compressed gas across the membrane body;
- the at least one channel is embedded in the porous material of the membrane body and is positioned at a distance from the outlet surface of the membrane body such that the compressed gas introduced through the at least one gas channel may pass through the membrane body and out the outlet surface; and
- valves in the outlet channel for controlling the flow therethrough.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented) A device for producing glass gobs, comprising:

- a membrane body including a gas outlet surface and an opposite surface, wherein the membrane body includes a porous material for permitting passage of compressed gas through pores of the membrane body;
- at least one channel, formed in the membrane body and larger in cross section than the pores therein for introduction of compressed gas into the membrane body and passage of the compressed gas across the membrane body;
- the at least one channel is embedded in the porous material of the membrane body and is positioned at a distance from the outlet surface of the membrane body such that the compressed gas introduced through the at least one gas channel may pass through the membrane body and out the outlet surface, wherein the membrane body is generally a disc having a diameter to thickness ratio in the range 1:1 to 10:1.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) The device of claim 2, wherein the at least one gas channel passing through the membrane body for compressed gas is located in the

membrane body such that the distance between the at least one gas channel and the outlet surface of the membrane body is less than half the thickness of the membrane body.

- Claim 7 (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the membrane body opposite surface is opposite the outlet surface, and the gas channels for compressed gas passing through the membrane body are open gas channels which open toward the opposite surface of the membrane body.
- Claim 8 (Previously Presented) The device of claim 3, wherein the outlet channel is positioned at a location across the membrane body selected for reducing gas pressure above the outlet channel for controlling a manufacture of a glass gob suspended above the membrane body.
- Claim 9 (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the outlet surface is a horizontal upper surface.
- Claim 10 (New) The device of claim 1, further comprising an arrangement operable to introduce the glass gobs to the gas outlet surface of the membrane body.
- Claim 11 (New) The device of claim 10, wherein the at least one gas channel is either parallel or at an acute angle to the outlet surface passing through the membrane body.
- Claim 12 (New) The device of claim 10, further comprising an outlet channel in the membrane body passing through the membrane body and exiting a surface of the membrane body and having a cross-section larger than that of the pores of the membrane body for defining an outlet path for the compressed gas in the membrane body.

- Claim 13 (New) The device of claim 11, wherein the at least one gas channel passing through the membrane body for compressed gas is located in the membrane body such that the distance between the at least one gas channel and the outlet surface of the membrane body is less than half the thickness of the membrane body.
- Claim 14 (New) The device of claim 10, wherein the membrane body opposite surface is opposite the outlet surface, and the gas channels for compressed gas passing through the membrane body are open gas channels which open toward the opposite surface of the membrane body.
- Claim 15 (New) The device of claim 12, wherein the outlet channel is positioned at a location across the membrane body selected for reducing gas pressure above the outlet channel for controlling a manufacture of a glass gob suspended above the membrane body.
- Claim 16 (New) The device of claim 10, wherein the outlet surface is a horizontal upper surface.